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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yoshimasa KAWASE

Title: WAFER HEAT-TREATMENT SYSTEM AND WAFER HEAT-TREATMENT METHOD

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Art Unit: 3749

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.111

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Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated December 12, 2003, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

The claims are listed in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this document.